



THE BESTIALITY ASPECTS IN *EQUUS* DRAMA BY PETER
SHAFFER

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly confirms that this final project entitled *Bestiality Aspects in Equus Drama by Peter Shaffer* was compiled by herself without taking any results from other researches, whether S-1, S-2, S-3 and diploma degree of any university. The writer also ascertains that she did not take any material from publications or someone else's works except for the references which mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, August 2019

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BY PETTER SHAFFER**

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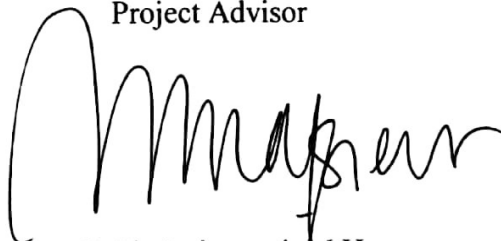
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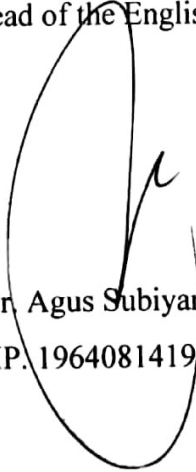
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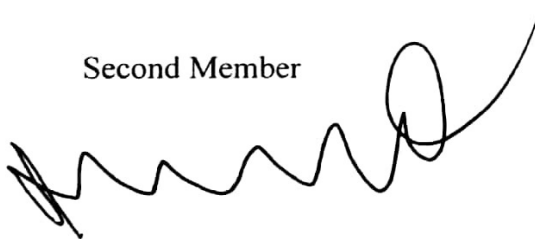
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to analyze the bestiality aspects of the main character on Peter Shaffer's play *Equus*. In collecting data, the writer uses library research method. This study uses the theory of bestialism by Andrea M. Beetz on his book entitled *Bestiality and Zoophilia: Sex Relation with Animals* and uses psychosexual analysis by Hani Miletski. The results of this study are as follows: 1) the main character express his sexual feeling toward horse when he in teenager but he started interest in horse since he was six. 2) *Equus*'s main character engages sexual relation with horse or we can call it bestiality due to some factors. The factors are psychological factor which comes from his parents because their different way in raising the main character, such of opportunity that Alan gets from his job where he has chances to make interactions with horses, loneliness that he has felt since childhood. 3) The bestiality gives some impacts to the character. He is called as criminal because he blinded six horses at once, even he stole a key of the stable where he works in. The character becomes over anxiety when he tries to have another sexual relation with human. In conclusion, *Equus* contains bestiality expression suffered by *Equus*'s main character, Alan.

Keywords: bestiality aspects, horse, main character, psychosexual approach.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

There is sexual anomaly named bestiality, sexual feeling to the animal like dog, cat and horse. This anomaly certainly focuses on a character. What a character faces in certain literary works could probably be faced by real people in reality. That is why it is analyzed by using psychosexual approaches.

Equus in a book entitled *Types of Drama Plays and Essays* is a play written by Peter Shaffer in 1973 that won the Tony Award for the best play of the year when produced in New York (Sylvan Barnet, 1988: 555). *Equus* is an interesting play about a man named Alan who has an anomaly which has sexual feeling to a horse and regards a horse as a sexual object. Alan's behavior can be said as sexual expression and bestial anomaly. This is very complicated psychological matter which makes this drama interesting to be analyzed. In this case the writer would like to analyze why the anxiety of Alan towards the horse can be said as bestial anomaly which makes Alan need the rehabilitation process.

In composing this research, the writer defines two points related to the topic and to be answered later to the discussion. The first point is the factors of bestial anomaly based on the play and the second point is the impacts of Alan's bestial anomaly. The writer hopes that the drama could be appreciated in order to get the values from the analysis.

1.2 Purpose of the Study

The objective of this research is analyzing the bestialism aspects of Alan towards horses that make him need rehabilitation. The writer is going to analyze three aspects, namely Alan's bestial anomaly, bestial anomaly factors, and the impacts of bestiality.

1.3 Peter Shaffer and His Works

The writer summarized the biography of Peter Shaffer from *literature.britishcouncil.org* that Peter Shaffer was born on May 15, 1926 in Liverpool. He was a British playwright and author of many dramas. Peter Shaffer studied History in Cambridge University and edited the student magazine *Granta* with his brother, Anthony. He lived in New York after his graduation and wrote *The Woman in the Wardrobe* (1951). In 1954 his first play, *The Salt Land*, was showed on BBC Television and followed by *Royal Hunt of The Sun* (1964), and *Black Comedy* (1967). He wrote more than 18 plays such as *The Gift of The Gorgon* (1993), *The White Liars* (1967), *The Private Ear* (1962), *The Public Eye* (1962), *Five Finger Exercise* (1958), etc and got 10 awards, namely *Evening Standard Award for Best Play of the Year* (1958 and 1979), *New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Foreign Play* (1959), *Critics Circle Award for Best New Play* (1975 and 1979), etc. In the 1970s he wrote three major plays: *Equus* (1973) which won the Tony Award for the best play of the year; *Shrivings* (1974); and *Amadeus* (1979) which went on to win eight Academy (Oscar) award. His most

recent work is *Gift of the Gorgon* (1993). Peter Shaffer died in Ireland on June 6, 2016 at the age of 90.

2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter will discuss theory of bestiality that is the definition and explanation of bestialism, factors of bestiality, and the impacts of bestiality.

2.1 Bestialism

Beetz (2002: 56) states that sexual contact with animals is called bestiality. It is a phenomenon rarely mentioned in either casual or scientific communications. In a non-scientific context, the subject of bestiality is often addressed in jokes or is viewed as one of the most bizarre behaviors, and it provokes strong emotional reactions, such as disbelief, disgust, and abhorrence. Commonly, the term bestiality is used to refer to arrange of sexual contacts with animals, while sometimes it is more narrowly defined as penetrating, or being penetrated by an animal.

Beetz (2002: 109) states that sexual fantasies with animals occur to teenager by the age of 17, but sometime they have it between 12 and 15 years old even under 10 years old. Commonly, they have a relationship with animals in their childhood because they are closer to their pets than other people. Besides, Miletski (2002, 110) says that 44% bestial male have their first experience outside and 29% in their environment.

2.2 Factors of Bestiality

There are variety reasons that become factors of bestiality. Miletski (2002: 109) states that the reasons why men is engaging in sexual relation with animals are sexual attraction (91%), the animal wants it (66%), loneliness (15%), and only 12% bestial male do not have human partner. Different reasons coming from Beetz's (2002) research state that 24% of bestial male have opportunity to make an interaction with animals and 57% are innate. Moreover, William and Weinberg (2003) in their study convey that bestial male have sexual interest in animal because their family has a household pet (23%) and some of them are not being popular (19%). Further information are stated by Paretti and Rowan (1983) in their sample that men are engaging in chronic bestiality because it is a sexual expressiveness (93%) and sexual fantasy (81%).

Moreover, Miletski (2002: 109) research states the factors of bestiality. The factor that sufferers have is psychological problems, low IQ, mental disorder, emotion, anxiety, and depression.

2.3 Impacts of Bestiality

Beetz in her research (2002: 98) entitled *New Insights into Bestiality and Zoophilia* states that bestiality has been discussed thoughtfully in the fields of criminology, sociology, mental health and psychology. Bestiality gives impacts to

the sufferers, circles, and the horse itself. There are some criminalities due to bestiality.

Beetz's research focuses on mental health problems caused by bestiality. The research states that many of the male zoophiles had been in psychotherapy. There are 38, 1 % of Beetz's (2002) sample. For more detail, 7,1 % of the men were in treatment because of their sexual interest in animals, 12,4 % of the men had been rehabilitated because they had depression, other impact of bestiality were 5,3 % of men having social problems, 13,3 % were nervous breakdowns and antisocial personality disorder.

In the field of criminology, Beetz in her journal (2002, 46) entitled *Bestiality and Zoophilia: Associations with violence and sex offending* states that interpersonal violence and sexual abuse included bestiality is one of criminality. The diagnoses of bestiality are related to criminal behavior and animal abuse that has been linked to Antisocial Personality Disorder as well as adult criminal offending. Animal Abuse occurs in very different forms like bestiality. In general, animal abuse can be defined as socially unacceptable behavior that causes an animal pain and an animal's death.

3

RESEARCH METHOD

This project uses library research method in analyzing the bestial anomaly of Alan. Library research stated by Mary W. George in *The element of Library Research*, is “an investigation involving accepted facts, unknowns, speculation, logical procedures rigorously applied, verification, evaluation, repetition, and ultimately an interpretation of findings that extends understanding.” (2008: 22-23). The writer concludes that library data, reading and writing also processing the objects of research. The sources used are not only from books but also from the other media such as, internet is by searching research journals’s Miletski and Beetz and electronic books namely Miletski’s *Understanding Bestiality* and Beetz’s *Bestiality and Zoophilia: Sexual Relation with Animals*.

This study applies psychosexual approach in analyzing the drama. Psychosexual approach is a way to analyze about literary work based on psychological viewpoint. Williams and Weinberg in *Essential of Abnormal Psychology* proposed that there is a psychosexual abnormal called paraphilia, an anomaly which the sufferer interested in objects except human for example

fetihism (interesting in inanimate objects), pedophilia (interesting in children) and bestiality (interesting in animals). Sexual contact with animals has only recently been investigated in more detail by Beetz (2002), Miletski (2002) and William and Weinberg (2003). Their data shows that there is a group of people who engage in sexual interactions with animals without employing force or violence. They try to arouse the animal to reach their sexual goal. This psychological approach is suitable to be used in analyzing the main character's anomaly.

4

THE BESTIALITY ASPECTS**4.1 Bestiality in *Equus***

The definition of bestiality, which is mentioned in the theory before, is a sexual relation with animal, for example horse. The drama tells us about bestiality indirectly. Alan, the main character in this drama, suffers bestiality which is showed in Act 1, Scene 21 mentioned that Alan takes a horse named Nugget out from the stable where Alan works to a field every three weeks. The dialogue in this scene tells us that Alan takes off everything from his body and feels his body burn. This scene illustrates that there are bestiality aspects when Alan naked in front of Nugget. Moreover, this scene makes it clearer when Alan says that he touches Nugget everywhere while saying “feel me on you! On you! On you! I want to be with you! I want to be you forever and ever! Equus, I love you!”. Based on his sayings, we know that it is bestiality aspects.

Further aspects that the writer found are Alan’s first fantasies. Beetz states in the theory before that sexual fantasies occur commonly when people are in teenager age but some people have it even under age of 10 years. In this drama

Alan's first fantasy to horse stated in Act 1, Scene 10 is started when he is 6 years old by the time Alan met a horse named Trojan in a beach. It is the first time Alan and horse talking as if horse can talk to him. Moreover, in Scene 11 Dora who is Alan's mother says that in twelve Alan giving more signs staring at his new horse picture and sometime talks to the picture. Furthermore, his first bestial fantasy occurs when he is in teenager working in a stable and meet a chestnut horse named Nugget. It is conveyed in Act 1, Scene 19-21.

4.2 The Factors of Bestial Anomaly Suffered by Alan

According to the theory mentioned before, bestiality occurs because of some factors. The factors which will be analyzed from this drama are psychological factor of the main character, Alan, that comes from his parent, the chance that Alan gets from his Job gives many opportunities for him in engaging bestiality, and loneliness that Alan has felt since childhood. All of this factors will be discussed below.

4.2.1 Psychology

Miletski said that one of the factors of bestiality is psychological problems. In this drama, the psychological problems comes from Alan's parent that have different thought about the way they teach Alan. His mother teaches Alan with religious way that is opposite to his father who is non-religious.

Frank: ... His mother indulged him. She doesn't care if he can hardly write his own name, and she a school teacher that was...

Dysart: Your wife is religious? ...and you're nonreligious, I take it?

Frank: I am an atheist. (Act 1, Scene 7)

The dialogue above shows that Alan's parent have different belief. Their different belief makes them having different way in raising Alan. His mother that is very religious always tells him stories from bible and all of the stories are about horse such as "He saith among the trumpets, Ha, Ha," "Hast thou given the horse strength?", "Hast thou clothed his neck with thunder?". All that sentences are put from the bible's stories. That is why Alan starts to have a such of interest in horses.

Dysart: Mrs. Strang, have you any idea how this thing could have occurred?

Dora: I can't imagine, Doctor. It's all so unbelievable!...Alan's always been such a gentle boy. He loves animals! Especially horse.

Dysart: Especially

Dora: Yes...when he was seven or eight, I used to read him the same book over and over, all about a horse.

...

Dysart: That's fascinating...Can you remember anything else like that you may have told him about horse?

Dora: Well not really. They're in the Bible, of course... (Act 1, Scene 7).

Moreover, his father who claims himself as an atheist disagree with his mother's way to raise Alan that always uses religious method. He tries to make a little lesson for his wife in order to make his wife regret. He changes a Jesus picture hanging up in Alan's room with another photograph. He replaces it with horse picture in the same position in order to prove his wife that she cannot face world in religious way.

Dora: ... He loves animals! Especially horse.

Dysart: Especially

Dora: Yes. He even has photograph of one up in his bedroom. A beautiful white one, looking over gate. His father gave it to him a few years ago, off a calendar he'd printed... (Act 1, Scene 7).

Dora: Well, do you remember that photograph I mentioned to you. The one Mr. Strang gave Alan to decorate his bedroom a few years ago? ... That's right. Well, actually, it took the place of another kind of picture altogether.

Dysart: What kind?

Dora: It was a reproduction of Our Lord on his way to Calvary. Alan found it in Reeds Art Shop, and fell absolutely in love with it. (Act 1, Scene 11).

Frank: You see why I couldn't tell his mother. ... Religion. Religion's at the bottom of all this! (Act 1, Scene 14).

They are unaware that actually they drove Alan to be bestial man because Alan is too young that is only his subconscious that dominate his mind. He always thinks that horse is everything. It is the most psychological problems that makes Alan become bestiality.

4.2.2. Opportunity

Beetz states that 24 % bestial male engage in sexual relation with animal because they have opportunities. Alan gets many chances to make interactions with horses when he work in a stable. Alan meets a chestnut horse named Nugget in the stable. He falls in love with Nugget in the first sight.

Dysart: But you managed? You mastered him?

Alan: Had to!

Dysart: And then you rode it in secret?

Alan: Yes

Dysart: How often?

Alan: Every three weeks. More, people would notice. (Act 1, Scene 19).

Dysart: Which one are you going to take?

Alan: Nugget.

Dysart: What colour is Nugget?

Alan: Chestnut. (Act 1, Scene 20).

The chance is used to take Nugget out from the stable. *Equus* tells us that Alan take the horse to a field which the far is two miles in every three weeks. The

reason why Alan chooses Nugget as his fiancée because Nugget wants it as if he can speak with Alan.

Dysart: And there he spoke to you, didn't he? He looked at you with gentle eyes, and spoke into you?

Alan: Yes.

Dysart: What did he say? "Ride me? Mount me, and ride me forth at night?"

Alan: Yes. (Act 1, Scene 21).

Dysart: And he? What he say?

Alan: "mine! You're mine! I am yours and you're mine!" (Act II, Scene 34).

According to the drama, the horse says "you're mine, I'm yours". It is one of the factors why Alan uses the opportunity when working in the stable to have a relation and engages a sexual relation with Nugget outside the stable.

4.2.3 Loneliness

One of the factors bestiality stated by Miletski is loneliness. Alan has a lonely childhood. He does not have any friends but his parent.

Dysart: I don't know it's the core of his life. What else he got? Think about him. He can hardly read. He knows no physics or engineering to make the world real for him. No paintings to show him how others have enjoyed it. No music except television jingles. No history except tales from a desperate mother. No friends. Not one kid to give him a joke, or make him know himself more moderately... (Act II, Scene 25).

The monologue above tells us that "him" refers to Alan. His childhood is very pathetic without friends, even television. His parent interdict him watching television, hearing music, having friends and learning something new. Especially his father, he forbids Alan to watch television.

Hesther: You mean his dad forbids him to watch?

Dysart: Yes

...

Frank: It may not look like that, but that's what it is. Absolutely fatal mentally, if you receive my meaning. (Act 1, Scene 6)

From the information above, it conveys that his childhood just hears his mother's stories and talks with his photograph. All of his factors included the rules that his father makes gives pressure to Alan. The pressure from his loneliness becomes the factors of his bestiality.

4.3 The Impacts to Alan of His Bestial Anomaly

There are two impacts to Alan of his bestial anomaly. The impacts are crime and anxiety. This two impacts will be analyzed below.

4.3.1 Crime

The bestial anomaly that suffered by Alan makes him as criminal. When he will try to have a sex with his only friends named Jill in the stable, he feels the horses are watching him angrily as if they are jealous. Because of that, at once Alan blinded six horses.

Hesther: He blinded six horses with a metal spike

Dysart: Blinded?

Hesther: Yes

Dysart: All at once, or over a period?

Hesther: All on the same night. (Act 1, Scene 2)

The crime which he blinded the horses makes him attending the court. The narrator does not tell us how Alan attended the court but it is showed in the dialogue between Dysart and Hesther in Act 1, Scene 2 mentioning that Alan

attended the court without saying anything and just singing. He could not cooperate in this matter so he is sent to Dysart to have rehabilitation.

Hesther: I mean it. My bench wanted to send the boy to prison. For life, if they could managed it. It took me two hours solid arguing to get him sent to you instead.

Dysart: Me?

Hesther: I mean, to hospital.

...

Dysart: What did he say in Court?

Hesther: Nothing. He just sang. (Act 1, Scene 2).

Another crime stated in Act 1, Scene 12 and 19, is when Alan takes out Nugget in every three weeks in the midnight without Dalton, the owner, permission. He stole the stable's key and copied it. This action can be said as criminal. Furthermore, in Act 1, Scene 12, conveyed that Dalton as the person that is loosed out feels that Alan should not be a patient in a hospital but he should be in prison like criminal.

4.3.2 Anxiety

One of the impact of bestiality stated by Beetz (2002) is nervous breakdowns that is caused by over anxiety. The impact of Alan's bestial anomaly is his anxiety to have sexual relation with human. He cannot have a sex with girl because his over anxiety through horse. When he want to have a sex with one of Dalton's employee named Jill in the stable, suddenly he feels worry if the horse is watching at him.

Alan: you know who! ... When I touched her, I felt him. Under me ... his side, waiting for my hand ... his flanks ... I refused couldn't do it. When I shut my eyes, I saw him at once. The streaks on his belly ... I couldn't feel her flesh at all! I wanted the foam off his neck. His sweaty hide. Not flesh Hide! Horse-hide! ... Then I couldn't even kiss her. (Act 2, Scene 33).

Alan never has a sex with a woman. The dialogue above is the very first time for him trying to have a sex. Unfortunately, he always thinks about horse. It is one of the impacts to Alan in this play that have been analyzed.

Furthermore, because Alan could not touch Jill at that night when they would have a sex, Jill becomes traumatic person. It is mentioned in Act 1, scene 12, when Dalton is having conversation with Dysart. In that Scene, Dalton said that he did not think he would ever get over the terrible experience and said that the terrible experience makes Jill has a trauma and nervous breakdown. Not only has a traumatic because of what Alan done to her but also feeling guilty to Mr Dalton. The fact is that she is the first person introducing Alan to him. In conclusion, the anxiety is not only suffered by Alan but also Jill.

5

CONCLUSION

There is a psychosexual abnormal called Bestiality. It is a sexual relation with animals such as donkeys, horses, dogs, cats, and cows. Alan, the main character, suffers the bestial anomaly. The bestial anomaly happens because of many factors. The first factor is his parent who have different thought about the way they teach Alan. The different thought makes Alan having psychological problems and having bestial anomaly. The second factor comes from his job that gives him many chances to make a sexual relation with horses. The last factor is loneliness. Alan is a boy without friend. Not only without friend but also without knowledge because their parent forbid him to watch television. This anomaly also

makes some impacts to Alan. It makes Alan living abnormally. The first impact is crime. He becomes a criminal because he blinded six horses in the stable. The second impact is his anxiety. He scared to have a sex with human because he feels that many horses will jealous with him. In conclusion, this drama contains bestiality expression suffered by *Equus*'s main character, Alan.

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